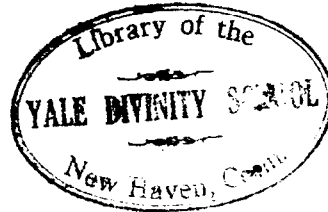




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TIDINGS
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Annual Report
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Mrs. John A. Howard
Editor

Once again this group of reports goes out to former subscribers of the India-printed publication from the New York office. As soon as paper is available Tidings will be printed on the field.

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1945 Annual Report, Balasore, Bengal-Orissa

By John and Alice Gilson

The chief accomplishment of this year has been the re-uniting of our family after a separation of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, and re-establishing of our home in Balasore for a new term of work. This required trips across the ocean under wartime travel conditions in troop ships. I also gave opportunity for a few months rest at home, and for three months of study at Iowa State College to catch up with what is going on in Industrial Education and to study plans for Technical High Schools.

Since December first, 1945, we have taken over our duties in the Technical School. We have started the study of the problems of post-war reconstruction of the school, greatly needed after five years of wartime conditions. The staff is much depleted, most of the younger members having left for war work at higher pay and their places filled by temporary workers of lower qualifications. The pre-war pay scale is not adequate to attract qualified personnel, now being discharged from the army and ordnance factories. During the war all available staff had to engage on defense contract work, and the theoretical teaching of the students was much neglected. The number of students is also considerably reduced, because of the high cost of living and the opportunities for the boys to get work. Buildings and equipment have deteriorated rapidly. No new machinery and no building materials are yet available for replacements and repairs. The plan of developing a Comprehensive High School has been held up.

These conditions in the school hold a challenge to us. We hope that better qualified technical staff may become available and that Mission work appropriations may be increased enough to warrant our offering increased scales of pay. Building materials should soon be available. Plans are being made for extensive repairs on the buildings. Some machine equipment may become available during the year, and also some steel and plastics and other such materials.

The pressure of outside work has eased a little and we hope to give more time to teaching and our program of student activities. We hope to proceed with our plan of combining the High and Technical Schools and make a start at a real Technical High School. Our main objective is the development of Christian characters, the strengthening of the Christian community, the building of the Christian church, and spreading the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

1945 Annual Report, Jhargpur, Bengal Orissa

By August A. Berg

The above caption suggests what should be reported on. These lines will, however, mention other activities. But the title is retained, nevertheless, to keep our task in mind.

From January to May, 1945, I continued to render services as civilian Chaplain at the U.S. Army air base at Chakulia. This involved conducting regular services there from two to four times every Sunday. For part of that time there was no other Protestant chaplain stationed there.

The contacts established during this ministry were mutually very profitable, and as a Mission we shall continue to reap the fruits thereof. In some cases the servicemen assumed the financial responsibility for the support of some of our Christian school boys. One of the projects long since approved by the Mission is the construction of an assembly room, camping quarters, cooking and sanitary facilities, etc., for lay leadership training, young people's institutes, Bible and inspirational conferences at Jhargram. It is probable that most, if not all, the expenses for this project can be met by the missionary contributions from American soldiers. Among other items on this project, we have proposed a Memorial Chapel to be dedicated to the memory of U.S. servicemen who had faith enough in our work to give it substantial support. In this way their ministry will be perpetuated for the upbuilding and the extension of the Kingdom of God among these needy people.

After the termination of official services as chaplain at the above base, much time and effort was devoted to trying to obtain surplus war material from the various camps which could be utilized for mission work. This concerned medical supplies, clothing, camping outfits, etc. That these efforts were not altogether unfruitful, many will testify, but the results of it all are recorded elsewhere.

From May until the time of the Mission Conference in November, repeated efforts were made, through correspondence and interviews with government and military officials locally, in Calcutta and New Delhi to obtain surplus military supplies, such as motor cars, building material, electrical and mechanical equipment for our Technical School; tents, cots, mosquito curtains, blankets, bedding, clothing, moving picture machinery for health, hygiene and general publicity and educational work; loud speaker or amplifying outfits for preaching and instruction, etc. These efforts have been largely in vain, to date, chiefly on account of endless red tape procedure and bungling methods at first, and later on account of positively prohibitive prices quoted. In the meantime, enormous quantities of motor cars and other equipment deteriorate right in our back yards so to speak. It is indeed ironical to have to record that while we have not been able to purchase a single military car for our work, it was a military vehicle which knocked down one of our missionaries in December last, in what very narrowly escaped being a fatal accident, (I, myself, being the victim).

After the end of the terrifically hot season, and the heavy monsoon rains, it was a great privilege to be able to resume visits to the village churches and communities, the kind of work which had been so sadly neglected on account of war conditions and our services at the military camps. Many needs and problems confront the churches, but on the whole it was encouraging to find real evidence that the grace and power of Jesus Christ had enabled so many to remain true to Him and His

(By August A. Berg)

TIDINGS

cause. The faithfulness of God and the faithfulness of the workers inspired us to face the future hopefully.

The following incidents will illustrate to some extent how the war has affected even the humble little villages, where Christians dwell:

After the cessation of hostilities and the removal of restrictions, I have several times tried to locate the actual spot where one of our village church buildings used to stand in Chitrapathor, only five miles from Khargpur. But so far, I have been unable to identify the site, because the spot has been within one of our big American air fields where dozens of B 29's were taking off regularly and huge gasoline tanks cover the immediate surroundings. But with gratitude I found that the members, who used to worship in that church, have not vanished, but gladly respond to meet for worship in a nearby village.

One Sunday in November I visited two village churches, Monapara and Choinesole. At both places were young men in the congregations, members, who had just recently returned from military and other war services in Assam and Burma. At the Choinesole church five such men attended, some of them giving testimonies of God's grace and keeping power during perilous times they had so recently come through.

One of the members in a village church is at present assigned to duty in Indo-China.

As Secretary-Treasurer of the Santal Christian Council, a fellowship organization comprising nine different Protestant missions, I recently received Rs. 150 from Santal Christians in Italy, to be used for orphans and other relief work.

About half of the village churches report baptisms during the year. We face the New Year with confidence that, as we shall have opportunities to give more time to the real task of evangelism and service in the villages, God will bless His servants and grant an abundant harvest. To this end we dedicate ourselves, and solicit your fervent prayers.

1945 Annual Report, Bhimpore, Bengal-Orissa

By Rev. H. C. Long

FAMINE This year it has been more of cloth famine than a lack of food, though the latter has been none too plentiful. In fact we sold off all the old bojra, a kind of millet that grows on a stalk like maize but at the very top. Funds sent for famine relief enabled us to sell it at a very low price without damage to local funds. But Government had the food situation pretty well under control, and there were no such outrageous prices as in 1943. Rice was kept at eight annas a seer (8 cents a pound), or thereabouts. Paddy, unhusked rice was of a corresponding price. Sugar, kerosene, flour and whole wheat flour were controlled; but some times the quality was very poor, and for one month I remember, I used molasses instead of sugar in my tea.

CLOTHING As you know, most of the people of this area wear pieces of rather light cloth, about 5 yards long and $4\frac{1}{4}$ " wide if full sized; smaller ones are also made for smaller people and children; and "towels", about $2\frac{1}{2}$ yds. long and 32" wide are often worn as loincloths by the men when working; and "better class" people use them when bathing. Government supplied a limited number of these, and also various other kinds of cloth, such as shirting, drill and jean for shorts.

ADMINISTRATION The set-up for distribution is a Food Committee in each Union. At first with the Working Committee I distributed each allotment among the 31 villages; then a subcommittee for each of the 3 blocks in the Union distributed from house to house.

From May to December there were 9 allotments, and about 2400 cloths, including many "towels", were distributed among over 6000 people; one cloth to every three persons. When you know that the poor people wear their cloths night and day, and that 3 months is the life of a cloth, you wonder how they keep clothed as well as they do! Some hand-loom cloths were sold in addition to these; shorts were worn; frocks were made for girls under 12, sometimes only of voile, as that was the cheapest cloth available.

On the occasion of the chief annual feast, the Government tries to give each community a special allotment, which does not mean an extra. Christians this year got a large assignment, and most of them have taken cloths in advance, and are no doubt annoyed with me that I did not let them have all they wanted. The Hindus are also annoyed that I did not release the balance for their Makar Sankranti festival, a great home coming occasion for the Santals, lower cast Hindus and Mahatas. But I observed that a number of families had not received a single cloth during these 8 months, so I have resolved not to let the balance go until the books are brought up to date, and I must see that each has a reasonable share. The Lodhas seem to be the chief sufferers; these are immigrants from Bihar, and are poorly treated by most of the people, but some Christians show them a little kindness. The Doctor Babu, as we call one of our Christian compounders, saved up Rs.7/- for one Lodha, whose grown up daughter, so he reported, has only a little rag about 8" or 10" wide to wind around her; and she sleeps that way. Her father came with his wife and a dear little baby about 4 months old; her cloth was pretty dirty, and his was in tatters. I ordered a dhuti and sari for each of seven families of Lodhas, who had not been given ration cards in all these months.

(By Rev. H. C. Long)

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THE HIGH SCHOOL In spite of numerous advertisements, letters, and even interviews we have not been able to properly restaff the school. We were able to get a Christian Science master, a graduate of Madras University, a Syrian Christian from Travancore, who left a job of Rs.180/- to come to us for Rs.100/- in order to do some Christian service. In November Rev. W. L. Keyser, Mrs. Keyser and Jan came back from U. S. A., and as Mission Conference was meeting just about that time, I proposed that he take over the school, and give me more time for jobs which I had been neglecting while I acted as Headmaster of the High School. He was good enough to consent and had been carrying on ever since December 1st. It was not till school was almost ready to open, however, that we were able to appoint a headmaster, Mr. D. N. Deuri, B.A, B.T., and the appointment was confirmed by the Reference Committee on January 15th.

We had 130 pupils last year; but may have to restrict the number this year as we cannot provide two teachers for class VII, and do not want too many Hindus in the school. Our mission schools are evangelizing agencies, it is true, but our Christian boys and girls must be given preference.

THE SANTAL VILLAGE SCHOOL These village schools have gone on about as usual during the past year. It is really surprising that we have lost no more teachers, especially young men, in these hard times when comparatively huge wages were being paid elsewhere. We had a good attendance of 39 at the Christian Teachers' Convention, and a very good attendance at the Convention of Teachers of Santal Schools, 130 out of 150 teachers being present.

Unfortunately, we could not get our special speaker for the devotional period, nor a good educationalist, although 8 or 9 were invited. However, we pulled through, and the teachers left in a happy mood. Some, however, must have been tired of hearing me, as I spoke 7 times in the 5 days'. On January 16th Reference Committee appointed Lieut. Bhagabat Hansda, who is being demobilized from the Civil Pioneer Force, as assistant to the Secretary of the Santal Education Board, and we expect him to greatly relieve the missionary, as he seems to be well qualified for the job. He has had 2 years in the Union Christian College at Berhampore, and is well spoken of by the principal. A Santal himself, he will at once command the confidence of the Santal teachers and public; having had semi-military training, and become used to fairly strict discipline, it is to be expected that will carry it into administration.

THE ORPHANAGE BUILDINGS At last we have cement. Now that Mr. Keyser is taking over the High School I expect to give considerable time to the construction of the remaining units. Already two houses of semi-dried brick walls and thatch roofs are done; two more are to be constructed. There is to be a dispensary containing quarters for a nurse, and sick rooms of burnt brick with a reinforced concrete roof; a store house similarly constructed; and 3 latrines with septic tanks which will have to be redrawn. I am glad Mr. J. G. Gilson, our engineer in charge of the Technical School, Balasore, is back to help me on this last piece of work. We shall need a well, aslo.

1945 Annual Report, Bengal-Orissa Mission
Reported by Mission Secretary, Rev. E. C. Brush

It is a great pleasure to present another annual report on the work of our Mission. This I believe is the 108th annual meeting since those pioneer missionaries, in cooperation with our English Baptist friends, came to India to take a share in establishing His Church. Some of our own number have been in India almost one-third of that time. If the present plans for integration of Mission with Church come to completion this meeting may well be one of our last. Thus God builds His Church.

NEW MISSIONARIES We have welcomed into our Mission Miss Hazel Smith as a member of our Bhimpore Staff. We are glad to report that Miss Elizabeth Knabe, from our sister field of China has come to give us a helping hand while she awaits the opportunity to return to her own work. We wish to express our appreciation for her service here. Something has happened that the family for General Board work has as yet not arrived. We are expecting Rev. and Mrs. Charles Kau very soon. The Woman's Board missionary for Balasore, educational supervision, has been appointed and expects to be here soon. A cable informs us that the Gilsons are on their way, and Miss Daniels will be arriving soon after the new year. We have the Keyzers with us in response to our request to the Board, and we trust that they may have the opportunity to give us some more help before they get called to again enter Burma. Miss Solomon is also on her way out to give some assistance in the Treasurer's Office while awaiting her opportunity to go on to China where she has prepared to serve her Master. The England family are here and we trust they also may cast in their lot with us until Burma is open. Extra boards will need to be put in the family table.

ANNUAL MEETING One of the delights of this annual meeting was to have had our Treasurer, Mr. Forrest Smith, with us. Many years ago, Dr. George B. Huntington, our former Treasurer, gave us a visit. We felt that he had a far better understanding of our life and work because of that visit. We welcomed Mr. Smith into our fellowship, and we trust that our discussions together may have been of lasting benefit to us all.

The return of the Midnapore property requisitioned by the military brings us face to face with the future plans for the Girl's High School accommodation. Miss Daniels has written to let us know that she has this problem very much in mind even while she is on furlough. The extra rooms for the classes were provided by some temporary mud thatched buildings. The cyclone ruined those. Plans had been partly made for the enlargement of the Bible School Building so permanent shelter might be enjoyed. We also have the old bungalow at one time occupied by the General Board missionary to find use for, perhaps that might meet the need for extra rooms until the building plan can be settled. Surely until building material and costs are more settled we are not able to urge the immediate completion of the plan. We hope very shortly to have this property in our hands, and the whole matter of the change back from the present quarters will be upon us. Some steps should be taken now rather than wait until Miss Daniels returns to move in the matter.

TRAINING OF LEADERS The Board of Managers has placed in our hands a sum of money, as the correspondence indicates, to help in the further training of some key persons in our midst. We have also placed an item in our Asking Budget to cover some of this need, due chiefly to the fact that we do not have any colleges under our mission.

(By Rev. E. C. Brush)

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MISSIONARY PERSONNEL I should like also to call attention to our list of missionaries due to take furlough. The Dunns, due to go in 1943, are scheduled to go in the spring of 1946. They have indicated that they desire to go at the scheduled time. This creates the problem of supervision of the whole Hatigarh area until the return of the Osgoods around Christmas of 1946. Since Mr. Gilson and family are back Mr. Frost will probably be relieved of some of his present responsibilities, and then Miss Brueckmann has much work in that area, and she might be able to help.

Then we have Miss Knapp, due in 1945, scheduled for furlough in the spring of 1946. Miss Smith has come out at our urgent request to assist in the Bhimpore work, and Miss Daniels will be here soon. We will need to face that problem of supervision if Miss Knapp is to be released early in the year.

I have already referred to the Keyzers and Mr. Long. Under the rules for Divided Family service the term set for service of the husband on the field is three and one half years. Mr. Long has passed that point by one half year now. And since the Keyzers agree to take over for as long a period as the Burma situation allows it would seem that such an opportunity should be taken advantage of by us. The Brushes are due for furlough if some China or Burma mission family are available to give relief. It may be that the England family who are with us may be available for that or the Jamshedpur post.

THE FAMINE RELIEF AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN SUPPORT The Famine Relief and Destitute Children support from funds in hand should have a word at this time. Last year the special committee was disbanded and the relief work was made a care of Reference Committee. And the Treasurer of Relief was authorized to make payments Rs. 22075.2.6. During the year I have received from National Christian Council funds Bengal Relief, Rs. 10385.1.6. Counting the Rs.2000 from Utkal promised I have in hand at present Rs.8585.0.3.

We have placed in the Asking Budgets for 1946-47 the sum of Rs.5225 to cover the Destitute Children after this N.C.C. fund closes.

In closing may I say that in many respects the past year has been full of uncertainty. When we take a look towards the future through the eyes of man it, too, may appear full of uncertainties. An integrated mission and church; a divided field, each going in a new path; an Independent India full of divisions and un-integrated interests, do have in them elements of uncertainty.

But we belong to a band who have given our undivided faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ. There was no uncertainty in his voice when he established the Kingdom of our Father, when He cast the first seeds into the ground: That Kingdom would endure, that seed would grow. The Theme of our program is I Will Build My Church. We are builders together with Him.

1945 Annual Report, Khargpur, Bengal-Orissa

By Rev. J. A. Howard

The Kora Field

The year past began in great confusion. Planes constantly buzzed overhead. A bomb accidentally dropped near one of the villages caused great fright as the Christmas night bombing of one of the airfields at Khargpur was still in mind. Roads everywhere were so filled with military vehicles that country carts and even pedestrians took their lives in their hands to travel anywhere. If soldiers were seen in the vicinity of any village people didn't stay to discover their errand but only ran as fast as they could to the jungles. Many of the native Christians went as laborers to different military camps. Even the camps changed from place to place and it was difficult to follow them up or send a worker to encourage them. In some cases almost entire villages went to north Bengal and Assam expecting to be paid fabulous wages, only to find the contractors gave them nothing but rice and four cents a day for vegetables. Their pay was pocketed by "managers" who gave fictitious names and addresses in Calcutta. One earnest Christian young man, in a labor gang, was reported to have died of cholera. Back in his native village his wife and children were in deep sorrow. The devil tormented them through their old superstitious beliefs. Every time the fire flared up brightly or the wind howled outside, they attributed it to the spirit of their loved one hovering near. But after a month there came a letter to say he was still alive but in great trouble but the address he gave could not be located.

Twice during the year thousands of multi-vitamine and meta-quinine, malaria tablets were distributed to the great benefit of the poor. For this we are indebted to the Friends' Service Committee. The destitute couldn't seem to buy cloth even on their ration cards, and one village had to resort to clothing themselves in leaves like our First Parents. What made matters worse was those who needed cloth the least seemed to know how to pull wires to obtain it.

The number of baptisms was comparatively small, only 38, partly due to the deadening atmosphere of all the evils accompanying war, and partly because we have become much more careful about those who apply for baptism. They must really be "born again", as unregenerate so-called Christians produce naught but trouble in the community.

We held a ten days' Bible School for all the workers at Hatigarh the end of April. Including those of the local community there were 40 in attendance. In December we gather the 18 Kora workers again at Khargpur for a week, and tried to impress upon them the importance of "Christ Crucified", "The Power of the Holy Spirit", and a "Born-again Membership." During the recess periods they indulged in a new form of exercise, "medecine-ball," the ball a donation from one of the American camps. Twelve of our young people have been attending for several months a Farmer-Preacher Bible School in a near-by province, and making creditable progress. One of them unfortunately showed signs of leprosy and had to leave school. There is a great deal of leprosy on the field. Eleven famine orphans of the field are attending school at Bhimpore through their being cared for in the famine orphanage at that place.

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(By Rev. J. A. Howard)

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Of course the devil is always busy causing trouble, but our Christ can make us more than conquerors. As a whole the Christians have remained faithful. We request your earnest prayers for a Spirit-filled successor.

(Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Howard have just arrived in the homeland for retirement.

The EDITOR)

The Light of Home

By Mrs. John A. Howard

"How far that little candle sheds its beams!"

"Lord help me keep my lamp of faith so shining
Throughout the shock and horror of this day,
That some soul, groping through a misty valley,
Might see the Light and better find the Way!"

My big desk has had a good housecleaning this week. Many treasures have had to be thrown away for there is a limit on the baggage allowance, and the limit has long ago been reached! (We are going home soon!)

I hadn't meant to write anything more about the soldiers and airmen, both British and American, whom we entertained here since 1942, but re-reading their letters they seemed to reflect part of the picture of the work carried on in Khargpur. I did far less than others owing to more limited opportunities, so I take no special credit personally; ours was only one of many Christian homes which was in a position to offer its little "lamp of faith" to lonely lads.

The following paragraphs from some of their letters to us are submitted with the idea that you who sent us here and supplied us with the means and prayed that our faith fail not, may humbly rejoice with us that our labor of love was not in vain.

From a West Virginia lad stationed at one time near the Agers and Osgoods, and later here: "It was good hearing from you. I know where the Osgoods live. I went to see them one Sunday afternoon. I was glad to hear about the Agers. I found them to be such dear old people. I'll never forget my visit with them... I was talking with a fellow the other day who mentioned what a fine place he was at a few weeks before. I asked where but before he could answer I had guessed it was Khargpur. Do you know where Mr. and Mrs. Roadarmel were married? (A secret way of giving his location). I attended service there on Easter. Mr. Holm appeared to be a grand man, and one who loves the Lord. Miss Marian Tait and Miss Maza Evans also live there. They are doing a grand and noble work.No matter what happens I will still believe that all things work together for good, to those who love the Lord. I cherish your prayers.You have been a great friend to me. Being with you was like being among my own people, the most wonderful people I met since I left home 28 months ago. Before we met in Khargpur, we didn't even know each other existed but soon we understood each other quite well. It was like a sister meeting her own brother, such is the love and affection that exists between the children of God."

From a Scottish Corporal (written from Khargpur to me on vacation): "Our meetings are improving in numbers... (the Khargpur cottage meetings in which he took a great part). On Wednesdays at Chapman's we have an absolute pack-out. On Mondays we have many new faces. Mr. Berg spoke at a Tuesday meeting. All like him; he is so sincere. As to my own battle, I keep going. I find Christ precious daily and I find Him adequate. We had a wonderful meeting last night. An Indian officer, a Hindu, decided for the Lord. I am really frightened for him, so much risk is involved in his decision. Another Indian also came along and was deeply moved. (From somewhere in England): We have nothing to do and all day to do it. So far I have found no Christian fellowship. I don't suppose such fellowship as was enjoyed by me in Khargpur exists outside that blessed station and I am now realizing the blessed privileges that were mine there during those three-and-a-half years."

(By Mrs. John A. Howard)

TIPINGS

From a R. A. F. lad: "First things first: I was baptized last Sunday. Praise the Lord for leading me to obey His law in this matter. I am sure my Khargpur friends will be glad to hear this news. (He had made his decision here). Our meetings are going on and in ones and twos the men are coming to know the Lord as their Saviour. I am ready to give my testimony, in song or word. My real desire is for a good study of the Word of God but it is rather difficult. Still the chorus you taught us makes our hearts light and happy, remember? "I know the Lord will make a way for me." We are just starting some cottage gatherings too, in places distant from church. The Lord certainly works at these little gatherings."

From a Maine Sergeant: "Let me thank you very deeply for all you did for me. I am really grateful for having been in India and having met you. God always seemed so close when one was at your home."

From another R.A.F.: "While I was so busy enjoying the fellowship I found among you the R.A.F. was busy arranging my departure. I shall always remember the hospitality extended to me, and the great spiritual blessing that came to me through it."

From a R.C.A.F. to whom I had sent a missionary report: "I often wondered when I was back home just what happened to those small collections which were taken up for missionaries. After glancing through your report, I now know and say you are doing a truly grand work".

Another R.A.F.: "The little book you sent me has been a great help. I find as you say, its no use relying on one's own strength. We have had one or two big meetings, not big in the Khargpur sense but to John and me they were definite answers to prayer. My people have received your airgraph and are thrilled to think I have friends out here. Remember us at your meetings and pray for revival."

Another: "We were far enough away from Christian fellowship before, but where I am now we are not likely to see anyone at all. I received your parcel of books a few days ago and was very pleased indeed with them. I am daily reading in the New Testament. I only wish I was back in Khargpur again as I sorely miss the fellowship. I lie awake at night thinking of the grand times and meetings we had. I shall never forget how kind and helpful you were to me."

From the 21 year old Piper of a Black Watch Regiment, converted in Jerusalem, at the age of 19: "I make mention of you in my prayers every night. Our meetings here are still going strong. We meet in the woods every night, with from 8 to 12 present and the Lord is blessing us greatly. How I would like to be with you again to help you spread the gospel of Christ. We now have four Christians in our company so if we get isolated we shall be able to carry on. You remember the lad you sent the "Schofield" to? Well he backslid but he wishes you to write to him. He has not had any Christian correspondence and I think it might be a means of bringing him back. I remember seeing a motto once. It said 'God first, others next, self last.' O that we might live in that order."

Another: "I cherish the Testament you so kindly gave me. It is one of my greatest treasures. I shall never forget the night when you came along, Mr. Howard, when the only means of crossing a river further down was wading across -- holding on to a cow's tail! That was the night you took us to your lovely home and gave us such a grand time."

Another R.A.F., one of the first to arrive in 1942: "Although this letter is long overdue you have never been out of mind. I have taken faithfully the medicine you so kindly prescribed for me, namely, "A chapter a day to keep the doctor away." Not only had my health been restored but my lost spirit. There were times when I despaired but the Good Book always kept me on the right road. It has been a source of continual inspiration. War is a terrible thing. Thank God I had a few friends to advise me or I too would have become a shriveled, bitter person, like so many I meet up here..... I am not neglecting the Word. I often thought of you those long weary days lying in hospitals."

From a Tenn. Lt.: "I will never forget how much you folks meant to me, and how much you helped me when I was there with you. I miss both of you as much as a member of my family. When there is so much wrong in the world it's a great comfort to know there are some people still devoting their lives to God's words and works..... God bless you."

From an Ill. Sgt.: "I'll bet you're thinking I've died or something, I've been thinking about you and praying for you. The last time I saw you was when our convoy passed your house. I waved and you waved back but I didn't know whether you recognized me or not. Things were fairly tough at first, but I'm feeling well for which I truly thank God. Each day Christ seems closer to me because I have put my full trust in Him. I'm thankful I can lean on Him and know He holds me up."

From another R.A.F.: "You will be glad to hear that George is well and is very keen and ready to throw all his weight into a determined effort for the Lord in this place. We have not as yet begun evangelistic meetings but have had some in the nature of preparation. You'd want to hear us singing! It would make a cat laugh! Sometimes Walker and George commence and they are down in the depths; then Duncan and I lead off and we are too lofty. It's pretty here. I shall not forget the wonderful times in your midst and I thank God upon every remembrance of you. You were a real means of blessing."

From a Scotch R.A.F. who was converted here: "Reading your letter it seemed I was right beside you enjoying the Christian fellowship which is so sadly lacking here. I am still out in the wilds far away from any place of worship or Christian friends, so you can imagine how lonely I am spiritually, or would be but for Christ's own loving presence. Thank you for the scrapbooks of poems. I shall make good use of them later, I hope. At present I'm very doubtful about my ability to put two or three words together, but I shall keep on trying. I've had word from Dad about the 'glorious tidings', (his conversion) and he wishes me to send you his thanks and say you will always be in his prayers. I'm still struggling to learn something of the powers of speech. Your letters are a great help and I'm making headway slowly. My father's ambition for me is to see me a minister of the Gospel. I'm asking the Lord to direct me. I know you'll be glad to hear that I am taking some of the meetings here."

From a Sgt. in the R.A.M.C. stationed for a long time at Midnapore. He had come to do missionary work in North India but had to join up after only one or two years. "This place is still strange to me and often my mind goes back to you and the Roy's (an Indian Christian family in Midnapore). That whole memory has a warmth about it which is not mere familiarity. If ever I was blessed in the Gospel it was in Bengal. I had bad times but the Lord was in all my way and my call to India very strongly confirmed. There are still memories which burden me a lot but I know God is working. I have been thankful to Him for the good soil I found among the Baptists when I simply had to see the Lord Jesus received and praised and felt the absolute necessity for sharing our common faith in Him."

(By Mrs. John A. Howard)

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I have often thought of the beginnings of the church in that district and remembered there were missionaries who labored well. If anything is amiss now its not because of the foundations. I dug down beneath the surface and found true foundation stone. There were those who loved the Lord sincerely and who only waited for someone to speak His name and reveal Him again. Their repense was warm and real and I can now say that they are dearer to me than any others in India. I had a heart-breaking time leaving the Roy's. I passed your wee abode in the dead of night and wished you a goodbye from the carriage window. All my theology has been shifting from doctrines and the mechanics of faith to Himself in Person. What a glorious thing that He became the Son of Man! I am all His for all time and that settles a lot of questions.

1945 Annual Report, Hatigarh, Bengal Orissa

By Rev. W. S. Dunn

About the first activity of the year was the meeting of the Utkal Christian Council, in Cuttack. I attended this meeting as a delegate from our Mission.

Since Rev. W. C. Osgood and family were planning to go on furlough in the spring of 1945, my wife and I were requested by Conference to take over the work at Hatigarh from February 1st. In January we visited Hatigarh, in order to become acquainted with some of the things which we would have to do. The routine work of the office includes many accounts and also reports of one kind and another, and is no small job in itself. The work includes not only supervision of the station work at Hatigarh but also visiting in various churches and schools in the villages round about where there are Christian communities.

In Hatigarh itself there is a Middle English (Grammar) School, medical work (including the work among the lepers, the Maternity Welfare Center, and the Dispensary), and the local church. In connection with the Middle English School, there is a Hostel for boys, and also an orphanage for destitutes who were gathered in, for the most part, during the famine of 1943. One of the girls of the orphanage is a survivor of a train wreck at Jaleswar. Nobody knows who her people were. She is more docile and much happier now than she was when first brought to us. At present there are 14 (11 girls and 3 small boys) in the orphanage and 22 boys (14 Christian and 8 Hindu) in the Hostel. One of the problems of the M.E. School is the lack of enough Christian teachers to carry on the program of Religious Education in addition to their other duties. Another problem has been to keep a staff of teachers. Two positions became vacant, - one through the resignation of a Christian teacher. Christian teachers could not be found to fill the vacancies. Two young Hindu men, who have passed matric (High School) but have not been trained, have been given temporary appointments in the school. There is a great need for two matric trained Christian teachers in the school. In addition to the ordinary courses of a M.E. School, carpentry and agriculture are also taught. Livestock are kept, and a garden is made during the greater part of the year, to provide practical training for the boys and to supplement the supplies to be found in the market.

The medical staff consists of a doctor trained in the treatment of leprosy; a compounder; a public health nurse and her companion; and a man to do propaganda work in connection with the work among the lepers. The latter visits villages, seeks out cases which should have treatment, and checks on regular attendance at the clinic. Twice each week injections are given at the leper clinic. In addition to lepers who come from outside for injections, there are about 85 adults and 12 children in the leper colony. Those in the colony who are able to find work do some kind of work in various places most of the year; but for part of the year relief work was provided for a number of them. This work served the double purpose of giving them employment and preparing some land for the cultivation of their crops. Some invalid lepers have been given support. A chaplain was appointed for the leper church and colony, and has been of great help in looking after relief work and the welfare of the lepers, as well as conducting services at the leper church. The lepers have their own church of 34 members. There is also a primary school for the children.

In addition to the church at Hatigarh and the leper church near the village, there are six other churches in this part of the field. There are 3 U.P. schools and 4 L.P. schools including the one at the leper colony. An attempt has been made to raise the U.P. School at Salgordia to an M.E. School. On account of a great deal of office work, handling the accounts and keeping the machinery running, I have been

hampered about visiting churches and schools. Not being strong enough to ride my bicycle so much as I used to be able to do has been a handicap, also. The roads of this part of the country are very bad, especially during the rains.

During the first half of the year there were an unusual number of meetings held in the area. The women of this area have banded together into a "Seven Churches Association," meeting each year in the cold season in the various churches. This year, it met at Jaleswar in January. The officers of the Association and the speakers at the meetings are almost always Indians. In this way, they take responsibility and get training for larger spheres of service. In April Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Howard spent about two weeks with us conducting classes for lay workers in their field. The Pastor of the Hatigarh church and others were very cooperative in connection with looking after food, etc. for those who attended classes. The Women's Conference, comprised of women from all parts of the Mission, met in Hatigarh for four days in May. This Conference is usually held in October, at the close of the rains. On account of the swollen river and bad roads, however, Hatigarh is not very accessible at that time of year. May is in the midst of the dry hot season. This year, however, there was an unusual rainfall in the spring, so May was not so hot. Just at the time of the Conference there was a series of showers. This did not deter a large number from coming, some from a distance and others on foot. Everyone felt that it was a good Conference.

One Santal young man, Sonatan Murmu, who has been studying in the Christian Training College at Cuttack has been requested to work at Manikadanga in this area with one of the senior preachers, Rev. Piyari Soren. Piyari Babu has rendered valuable service among the Santals of his field and there has been quite a movement among them towards Christianity. Quite a number have been baptized within the last few years. We hope that this young man will learn the field and the work there along with the senior preacher so he may be able to take over the work when Piyari Babu retires. Another young man, Bhupati Sahu, of Jaleswar, who has completed the course at the Christian Training School in Cuttack, is to become the chaplain at the Balasore Technical School. It is a special joy to me to see these young men beginning their work in the ministry, since both were students of the Lay Preachers' Course on which I spent considerable time and from which both received advanced standing in the Christian Training College. One of the Bible women who is working was also a student in the Lay Preachers' Course. I am glad that I was able to help give these young people a start in their preparation to carry on the Lord's work.

Several of the preachers were out camping, visiting villages and preaching before the Christmas season. I hope that they will be doing this work again after the beginning of the new year.

During part of the summer, my wife was in Landour with our younger daughter who was in school there. Since Hatigarh is a country place nine miles from Jaleswar, the railway station, I did not come and go on the railway very often; so there would frequently be weeks when I would not even see a white face. I looked forward to going to Mission Conference in Khargpur, but before time to go I had an attack of fever which made me too weak to go. That was quite a disappointment to me. My wife returned to Hatigarh on account of my illness, so she also missed attending Conference. She has been of great help to me in the work, especially in connection with the orphans and boarders, by supervising the making of their clothing. This was no small task since she cut many of the garments herself. She has also dispensed medicine at cost from the stock kept at the bungalow, to patients sent by the doctor. Some medicines have been given free to poor people. Besides this, thousands of multivitamin and metoquin tablets, supplied from America through the American Friends Service Committee have been given to the people of the community and outlying villages. Being able to

(By Rev. W. S. Dunn)

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consult with her in connection with problems which arise has also been a great help to me and the work.

Although we had a short furlough of six months in the hills, in the northwestern part of the country, we feel the strain of a long term in India. February 21st, 1946 will make nine years since we arrived in India after our last furlough in America. We are hoping to go to the States again in the spring of 1946, and are looking forward to a period of rest, study and spiritual refreshing, to equip us better for our next term of service.

The Pied Piper of Hatigarh

By Gladys E. Dunn

The cold season is upon us in force. A few days ago the minimum temperature in Calcutta was recorded at 47 degrees! This is the lowest recorded in eleven years for the month of December,- the lowest in 35 years being 45 degrees. This, in the tropical land of India!

The crops this year have been fair in some places, but very mediocre in most places. Those on high ground suffered greatly for lack of rain at the proper season. The clothing situation is desperate. For some reason or other, the people have not been able to get sufficient common saris and dhutis (the attire for women and men respectively) or cloth for chemises, even when they were willing to pay for them. Some shirting and cloth for pants has become available on the open market, but this does not take the place of the other garments.

When we came over here in the spring, I brought a full bolt of markeen (unbleached cotton cloth) which had been left over from relief work the previous year. This has been put to good use, in making clothes for the fifteen famine orphan girls and the littlest boys throughout the year, supplementing the clothes and cloth left by Mrs. Osgood. The seven boarding boys, for whose clothes the mission is responsible, as well as the three leper orphan boys, have been provided with shirts, pants, and other clothing from one source and another.

It is the custom in India for the Christians to make and wear new clothes on Christmas, which is their BIG DAY. The children of the family are provided for first, and many a baby blooms out on that day in a gay multi-colored wool cap or hood, or a dress of various colored materials. By combining small pieces of cloth, sent by the women of some churches in America, I was able to make Christmas dresses for the eight smaller girls in the orphanage. The seven bigger ones had to have saris (hand-made by weavers at Hatigarh). From a large box of dresses, suits, etc., sent from America, I had previously given out, in Balasore, all the clothes large enough for school children. I had on hand quite an assortment of dresses size 6 and under, chemises up to size 10, and also a few small boys' suits, which I brought over here.

In a large Christian community of 75 houses, like Santipore (now commonly called Hatigarh because the post-office name was changed,- there being so many Santipores in India), there is bound to be a large number of children in the village. After I had been to a few houses, measuring the children, it was noised abroad that the Memsahab was giving out Christmas clothes. Thereafter, the tape measure, dangling from my hand or around my neck, was as great a drawing card as the original Pied Piper's flute. Children followed me from house to house, and it is a wonder I did not measure the same children more than once. After I had been to several houses, in an afternoon, I went back to the bungalow, the children trailing after me. When the clothes were given out, the size and kind was struck off the list so that I would know when that size was exhausted. In this way, many girls and a few boys received clothes. Many of them would otherwise not have received anything from their parents. Practically all the babies below two years of age were given a piece of cotton flannel for a warm dress and remnants of cotton cloth from which a dress could be made for warmer weather.

I was glad to be able to give cloth for warm blouses to four needy elderly women. If we, with our warm, wool sweaters, feel the cold winds piercing almost to our bones, how much more must these people, who are scantily clad, feel it! We are hoping that the clothing situation will be easier soon, but at present the only thing to be done is to wait.

1945 Annual Report, Khargpur, Bengal-Orissa

By Rev. & Mrs. Edwin Brush

We began the year under the shadow of the war, but rejoiced with all other Christians when hostilities ceased in Europe on V-E Day. We were not so vitally affected on this side of the world, but felt the impact of the sudden arrival of V-J Day in the exodus of many of the American service men from the area although B-29 crews had already gone to the various islands of the Pacific from March until July, 1945. The 10th Airforce came out of Burma in August, was briefly with us, and was followed by the various units from China, flown over the "the Hump," and sent aboard ship from Calcutta.

CHRISTIANS FROM AMERICA

Our contacts with the Christian young men who sought out the church and parsonage for spiritual help have been the "silver lining" of the war-cloud overshadowing us. We arranged for many of them to see the work of the Mission in various jungle areas and to assist in Cottage prayer meetings by leading and sharing their experiences. Their testimonies for Christ have done much to bind the bonds of Christian fellowship, internationally and interracially and served to partly counteract the opinion abroad in this one "corner" of the world that the soldiers have an undesirable effect on communities where they live in service.

The analysis of one young Anglo-Indian man is interesting, "I like three of the Americans (naming them) I met in the Church for the reason that they met us as equals. If another American came up, they did not leave off talking with us and join into conversation with him."

On the other hand, the mere presence of so many Americans has caused disaffection among members of the congregation some of whom felt overwhelmed and withdrew from their usual participation in the activities of the church. Aspects of the theological quarrels affecting various church groups at home were introduced by some of the servicemen, also, and have had a disintegrating effect upon the united Christian witness which should prevail in such a land such as India where Hindus and Mohammedans so outnumber the Christians.

Our colleagues, Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Roadarmel left for long-delayed furlough in July, but we have been assisted since November by Miss Evelyn Solomon who will remain until she can go to her designated field in China. She is sharing the office-work of the Treasurer and helping in the program of evangelization, and in the entertainment required by our central location in the Mission.

Just outside Khargpur is a large field of white crosses, set aside as a national cemetery by the U.S. Government. It will be an eternal reminder of the many who will never return to their home or friends so far away.

We appreciate the generous gifts of money from the Boards as well as from many individuals which enabled us to welcome the boys into our homes so cordially. We take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to all who had any share in the kindness.

WARD MEMORIAL CHURCH

When Rev. C. C. Roadarmel left on furlough in July, I was asked to assume guidance, as missionary-pastor, of the groups using Hindustani, Oriya-Bengali and Telugu here. Since the language handicap is a vital one, my service is somewhat limited, but it has been a pleasure to associate with them in any helpful way possible, mostly by prayer and counsel.

The Telugu Church is still without an Indian pastor, but continues its regular services and Sunday School. Laymen conduct the worship, and the Church Secretary guides them along spiritual paths. Good attendance marks the services held in the English-speaking church building. At Christmas time an elaborate pageant was given outdoors, to a record crowd. Many who participated attend Mission schools in "Telugu country" and were home for the holidays.

The purchase of a piece of land on the edge of the city with money raised by the local Telugu group, with two small additional gifts, has been completed and the work will expand into a needy area. A pastor's house is the first building planned.

The church group which ministers to the other language areas has been passing through a severe testing. Pastor and deacons became mere figure-heads in the hands of a prophet-like Indian itinerant evangelist who descended upon the community and has succeeded in deflecting twelve families from the established church into his "folds." The regrettable feature is the division of the "witness," but a heart-searching on the part of those remaining loyal to the local body has resulted in increased attendance to maintain a steady patient devotion to the Cause of Christ in Khargpur, regardless of those who come and go.

In Nispura, a suburb of Khargpur proper, about thirty-three families have petitioned to be recognized as a separate church under the auspices of the Khargpur group in Ward Memorial. A plot of railway ground is being set aside for the pastor's house and church building, and money is being collected for the amount required. Servicemen have made some gifts, also.

The Khargpur pastor has been permitted to return to the Cuttack Bible-training College to complete his training in theology and Bible. Thus we meet the need of better-training for men to serve our congregations, made up of educated, as well as uneducated persons.

Baptisms have occurred in all church groups, English, Hindustani, Bengali-Oriya, and Telugu.

CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION, KHARGPUR

The outstanding feature of the Christian Temperance Union meeting held on May 7, 1945 was that a male secretary was elected for the first time. The one elected stated that it was a momentous task entrusted to so frail and young a man to be made the secretary and treasurer of the C.T.U. It used to be called The Women's Christian Temperance Union, but the "W" was dropped leaving the organization as C.T.U. because there was a definite need to teach total abstinence from the use of alcoholic liquors among men as well as women. It was felt at the meeting that neither individuals or nations can exist and stand secure unless they support the vital principles and ideals of such a union. This can only be achieved by personal sacrifice and prayer. The devotional period of the meeting was conducted by

(By Rev. & Mrs. Edwin Brush)

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Mrs. J. A. Howard, and the speaker for the occasion was Rev. W. C. Osgood of Balasore District. His subject concerned the control of drink and narcotics in Balasore District. Seven other monthly meetings were well attended and profitable.

1945 Annual Report, Balasore, Bengal-Orissa

By Rev. H. I. Frost

Three men in the station on January 1st, 1945; one man from March 15th on to care for the work centering in the station for which the General Society missionaries are responsible. Naturally some phases of the work did not get the attention they required. My primary work thus far this term has been the religious work in our Boys' Schools, including Bible classes, worship services, and some effort to guide the religious education program of the local church. All this was continued during the past year, with an extra Bible class during the last six months.

BALASORE DISTRICT WORK PROGRESSES The departure of Mr. and Mrs. Dunn to Hatigarh February 1st, meant that we were supposed to have a supervisory relation to the District work. The fact that Rev. Kritibas Behera was our associate in this with his energy, enthusiasm and consecration, meant that much was accomplished, although we could not visit all the churches, and only a few times got to some of them. Our contribution was more by meeting with him and the workers and Local Evangelistic Committee for consultation and planning. Two of the church gatherings, one for the whole mission area at Salgordia, and one for the District at Gengataboni on the Hatigarh Field were occasions of real spiritual uplift and it was a privilege to attend. Balasore Church entertained without cost to the guests those who gathered in the District Union in September. This shows a sound basis of Christian fellowship.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK Mentioned in previous reports, but of great significance, was the fact that the younger people of the Balasore Church have been very active, particularly in the Sunday School, including outside Sunday Schools, as well as in the Church as officers. A group of them, encouraged by the women of the Woman's Meeting, got together and considered what should be done regarding urgently needed repairs to the church roof. The result was that a committee of young men was formed who have canvassed each family and member, have gone around again and again, and have already secured in hard cash nearly one thousand rupees. The decision was to ask every member to give one day's wage monthly for 12 months. It was encouraging to see how the membership as a whole responded willingly.

BALASORE TECHNICAL SCHOOL When Mr. Gilson left for his furlough early in March, I was for the second time this term obliged to assume the Principalship of the Technical School. Because the Workshop is run on commercial lines and many lines of work, carpentry, furniture-making, truck and bus-body building, electric work, motor repairs, are done, the financial responsibility is great. Whatever was accomplished on that side was largely due to the faithfulness and efficiency of Mr. Kulendra Mohapatra, the Superintendent. By taking in some promising boys in July the student body has been enlarged somewhat. We thankfully welcomed back Mr. and Mrs. Gilson in November and he immediately took up the Principalship.

To me the noteworthy event of the year was when in September several of the Hindu boys of the Technical School of their own accord came to say they would like to join the Sunday School. I organized a class for them and some six of them were very faithful. As they have Bible classes in the school, and daily worship, we have never compelled attendance at Sunday School. Even so, often some of the

Hindu boys are now and again seen at the Church mid-week prayer-meeting. I am also sure that anyone attending the morning worship service of the Technical School would be impressed with the quietness and evident reverence with which all, including Hindus participate.

BALASORE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL The School Year for the Boy's High School now begins in July. The shift over was made from January 1st to July 1st in 1943. The class which took the Matrioulation Examination last June had had several months less time to do the main work of the course. The results were not as good as usual. However, a sizable group passed. All the classes were full almost, or quite, to capacity. We never felt the inadequacy of our classrooms more. The building was in the first instance a residence and office building adapted to school purposes. From this year special work in physical education is prescribed and science becomes compulsory from the second year (called 9th class) of the High School. This involves additional staff, and new classrooms. Our needs have been recognized and we hope the financial side of the "World Crusade" will be a success, so that we can have our much needed new building. It is planned to serve both the High and the Technical Department. Attendance was over 260.

As our able and experienced Headmaster, Mr. Roma Kanta Sahu, was still on the job, the work of the High School has gone smoothly, discipline has been good and the work of the School received commendation from the Government Inspector. Mr. Sahu has also rendered a very great and valuable service as Chairman, and honorary Executive Officer of the Home Mission Board which is responsible for the Evangelistic work of the whole Mission area. Mr. S. K. Roul, who is Storekeeper of the Technical School, a very responsible job, has been the Secretary-Treasurer of the Home Mission Board. Both are deacons of the Balasore church.

During Christmas week, Mrs. Frost gave a party, a "Candy Pull," to the young people of our Christian community who are in college. Eleven, three of them young women, were present. They seemed to enjoy themselves very much. Such a fine bunch of young people! So full of promise! There are others. Three young people, one of them a young woman, are attending the Y. M. C. A. College of Physical Education. Two receive help from the Mission and all three also have a Government scholarship. Other young people from Bhipore, in Midnapore District, are receiving loans from funds given by U. S. service men. Owing to the efficient work of Miss Bowers, the Young Peoples' Institute was a success. It was held in Balasore in October.

PROBLEMS We are still too near the end of the war, the cost of living has not decreased, the danger of inflation is real, labor is restless, the political and social milieu is a conflict of many forces. Genuine desire for independence on the part of some, personal ambition, religious communalism, the greed for gain, all are at work. At one time the future seemed ominous because of unrestrained and violent condemnation of the Government's prosecution of some members of the Indian National Army who went over to Subhas Bose.. It was a real relief when the Congress leaders reasserted their faith in non-violence, and said they did not approve of resort to arms. This we know, both Congress and the Moslem League will dominate the political life of India, whether for weal or woe remains to be seen. For foreign missionaries and the church, this much is encouraging. The Election manifesto of Congress issued on December first declares, "The Constitution shall provide for fundamental rights; among them the following:-(1) Every citizen of India has the right of free association and combination, the right of free expression of opinion, and the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, for a purpose not

opposed to law or morality. (2) Every citizen shall enjoy freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess and practice his religion subject to public order and morality. (5) No disability attaches to any citizen by reason of his or her religion, caste, creed or sex, in regard to public employment, office or power, or honour, and in the exercise of any trade or calling." These are truly noble principles and it is good they have been put down so clearly.

However, our Christian enterprise is not dependent on man's political creeds, nor even on the approval of great men and governments. If we but humbly carry on as "God's fellowworkers", His Cause will make progress. This shall be our effort.

1945 Annual Report

MISSION GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, MIDNAPORE

Mrs. Bina Biswas

We are still in the middle of the town in temporary quarters. The place is quite satisfactory though we are short of enough rooms. The number on the roll was between 370 and 385 last year and we had to refuse many for want of rooms.

The Prize Distribution was held under the joint Presidentship of Mrs. Mitra, the Judge's wife and Mrs. Bastin, the Magistrate's wife. There were a number of distinguished guests, among them an European Colonel who said, "I have seldom seen such a pleasant function. It can be compared with like events in any school of a big city and has no less merit." He was a genuine Christian and during his stay here, he used to do a lot of work among the people.

Eleven girls appeared at the last Matriculation Examination and ten passed. This year there are fifteen girls and most of them are very good students.

The girls staged a drama in September in aid of the school charity fund and it was a great success as they were able to collect about Rs. 800 (\$270), and we are helping a number of girls of the school as well as outsiders out of that fund.

The school picnic was held as usual and the children enjoyed it very much. They invited some lady guests.

We are very glad indeed to see Miss Ruth Daniels back. It is really a blessing to have her and we thank our Heavenly Father for her safe arrival. There is one thing I cannot help mentioning in this connection just to explain what she is to us and how she feels for us. While bringing her here from Khargpur in the school bus, she was anxiously looking at everything and at the old familiar places and her face just shone! She was telling us how anxious she was to reach Bengal and Midnapore. She said, "While on the train from Lahore I became so restless to reach Bengal. I don't much like the United Provinces side and when I was able to see some bamboo and other familiar trees, I felt happy as I knew I was nearing my home - Bengal!" Notice the words, "my home." We were so happy to hear her say this. She has established such a genuine atmosphere here and helps us to maintain it. That is why so many times I hear from guardians when they come to admit their wards, "We realize and appreciate the value of a Christian school and we want our children to grow up in a Christian atmosphere."

Nua Barsha, Nomaskar! New Year Greetings to You!

Balasore, Orissa

Elizabeth Knabe

Clang! Clong! Clang! Clong! Booooooomm! So enters the new year into the town of Balasore, thus announced by the church bell and a small bomb which the enthusiastic youths have set off at the stroke of midnight. It seemed but five minutes later, though really it was five hours, when the thump of drums and the chant of male voices drew us to the porch to greet the Christian carollers from Balia village, a mile away. Another hour, and the half-dozen girls remaining in our boarding for the holidays came by, singing sweetly, and we thought it was time to arise and begin the day.

Again the church bell rang out, loud and clear, and people came from far and near for the service at 8 a.m. Just before the service began, the sound of the drums, bugle and cymbals and many voices, announced the approach of two groups of men and boys, from Balia and from Niliabog villages. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord" was the scriptural injunction which they were following to perfection. Each group tried to out-do the other; but after Balia had entered the church and ended their song with a flourish, the pastor cautioned them to be quiet so that Niliabog could make an appropriate entry. By then, the church was well-filled with about 250 men and boys, women and girls, the latter dressed in their best sarees and shawls of bright-colored or bordered silks and cottons and woolens. Mr. Sahu, headmaster of the Mission Boys' High School and a very outstanding Christian leader, gave a splendid sermon. After the service, Indian sweets were given to all the children as they left the church.

It is exactly six months since I set foot on Indian soil, in Bombay on the west coast; and I feel that I have seen quite a bit of India and the life of the people, including weddings, birthday feasts, church and Sunday school services in town and villages, government and school functions, and the V-J Day celebration. Christmas in Balasore was truly a day of worship--I attended three services at our Oriya church and one at the English church. Christmas was ushered in in the same fashion as the New Year, by church bell and bomb and carollers. About 80 folk came to the 8 a.m. Oriya service, the majority being men and boys; but in the afternoon over 200 gathered in the area of the churchyard to enjoy the Christmas tree (a mango tree), listen to the songs of the children and the words of the church elders, and join heartily in singing. At the gate gathered a long line of beggars, together with many food-venders hoping for sales after the service was over. In the evening, the church was filled, with a slight majority of women, as the speaker was a very well-educated woman of the Christian community who is a retired Inspectress of Schools. Strings of colored paper flags floated over the audience. Bright flowers decked the pulpit. Gay sarees and Kashmir shawls added to the colorfulness of the scene, and everyone was happy.

My work in the Balasore Mission Girls' School has been vastly different from that at the University of Shanghai. Instead of large classes of students of college age studying English, I have found myself with small classes of primary and high school girls, and I have taught not only English, but also mathematics and physical education. Also I have done quite a bit of office work. I am sure that my stay in Balasore has been interesting and has given me many experiences of life in India, which I hope will be of value when I return to China.

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MISSION GIRLS' MIDDLE ENGLISH SCHOOL, BHIMPORE

Hazel Smith

Coming out to India at the end of the war to people who have seen famine and fear and death is an experience that makes one pray for wisdom to walk gently and to have an understanding heart. It has been an inspiration to me to see the patience of missionaries whose furloughs are overdue and who have been through such difficult years, who are still carrying on cheerfully and with such faith in the future. It is a privilege to do what one can to supplement the efforts of such a group.

Coming to Bhimpore has brought many new experiences to me. Living in a village is quite different from living in a town. One feels nearer to the real India. The experience of meeting and getting to know the teachers, nurses, Bible women, and other workers here has been very fine indeed. They are a splendid group and show a real Christian spirit in their work. One could wish for a better spirit in the Christian community, but even there there is no cause for despair. There are many fine Christian families who are bringing up their children prayerfully and well. We give thanks for them as we continue to pray for a revival of spiritual life among some of the others.

My personal activities have been very largely in connection with language study. It is odd to learn a new language that is yet not quite new. Bengali is sufficiently like Assamese to make it possible for one to understand most of what one hears, but sufficiently different to make one hesitate to speak for fear of mispronouncing words or using incorrect forms. But practice and study resulted in my being able to pass the first year language examination given in Calcutta early in December. I have been in charge of the Girls' School and boarding department since the beginning of January, and am looking forward to a busy year. Do continue your prayers for the building of His kingdom in this place.

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BALASORE MISSION GIRLS' SCHOOL

TIDINGS

- Nina Bowers -

Four years ago tonight I arrived in Balasore, a stranger, and unfamiliar with the language and customs of the people. Now I do not feel like a stranger. I can read and write Oriya as well as speak and understand it, and I am beginning to learn how the people here live and think and what their particular needs and problems are.

In the last five months six teachers have left the school, I would ask for your prayers for three of these especially--Bindu Das, who is doing a splendid job of teaching in the village school at Kundapore and helping the women and children of the church in many ways; Niroj Jena, who is beginning her college course and who expects to return here as a fully qualified domestic science teacher; Bidhu Dolai, who is taking the two year Bible course at the Theological College at Jubbulpore. Bidhu is an orphan who was educated in this school. After completing her teacher's training, she joined our staff and taught two years. In speaking with me about her decision to resign and study to become a Bible woman, Bidhu said, "I want to serve God all my life. Those who teach must retire when they reach a certain age, but I don't want to quit working then."

Of the seven girls who wrote the matriculation examination, six passed. Four of the six are in college and one is taking teacher training. The other, a fine Hindu girl, is married. For the past two years we have had a number of girls in our school and hostel who were taken at the time of the famine. The health of the twelve who remain shows a marked improvement. Several are doing good work in school, and all attend Sunday school and church regularly.

In the near future, as soon as money is available and final plans are made, we hope to have two new hostel buildings and an isolation building for sick girls. If you could see the two-inch cracks in the floor, the bare patches of wall from which the plaster has fallen, the iron rods holding the walls in place, and the leaky roof, you would know some of the reasons why a new hostel building is so necessary. The boys who last tried to patch the roof shrugged their shoulders and said it was positively the last time the roof could be fixed. I agreed because the very next time it rained, two or three weeks later, the girls mopped up two buckets of water from the downstairs study hall floor. In the past few months I have been able to visit boarding departments of seven schools in other places. Some had convenient living arrangements and attractive cottages which the children took pride in keeping neat and clean.

The cost of food and wood and cloth has remained very high. The girls have learned to patch and darn and make over old clothes. Every child who loses a garment must work at least ten hours before she is given a new one. I have spent a good many hours trying to get cloth and food ration cards and have written dozens of letters. Four of the older hostel girls are conducting Sunday schools for Hindu children and one is teaching a class in the primary department of the Balasore church Sunday school.

Since July Elizabeth Knabe of our East China mission has been teaching physical education and English in this school. We have shared much of the office work. Early in 1946 another missionary is expected.

Again this fall I have been able to do some language study. I have translated a book from Oriya into English, and we spend half an hour a day with the Oriya newspaper. In addition I am supposed to be able to read Oriya letters, but practice in that comes

from "censoring" the letters written by and to the girls. The language examination comes in March, 1946.

I often go to women's meetings and have led a few times. Groups of Christian women went to various Hindu villages last Easter telling the meaning of the risen Christ and what Easter means to Christians. There has been uniformly good attendance in our primary department of the Sunday school. Miss Brueckmann and I have both given time to the Junior Church, now in charge of three village women. A study group for mothers has been started this year.

I was again chairman of the committee to plan for the Young People's Institute, which was quite successful. Because the cottages by the sea are still occupied by the military, the meeting was held in Balasore. Next year we hope to meet in Chandipur-By-The-Sea. Fifty-two were registered, and many others attended some of the sessions. The participation and interest of several of the college young people added a great deal to the meeting. We invited nine young men from Chordhia to take part and to present a religious drama one evening. Some of them walked forty miles to the railroad and then stood up during the forty-mile train trip to Balasore. I mustn't forget to add that we had seventy-two hours of continuous hard rain during the five days, but our spirits were not dampened.

As head of the school I have been asked to help in various ways in community service. Among these are serving on the managing committee of the Wavell Home, a government orphanage; on the Municipal Education Committee; on the managing board of the Child Welfare and Maternity Center; as vice-president of the Girl Guide (Scout) Association, and in a women's service group which knits and sews for the poor and for service men. Last January I spent four very hot afternoons judging events in boys' and girls' sports. Last month I went to Bhadrak to inspect a newly organized Girl Guide group and the middle English school there.

In spite of many duties there has been time to accompany others on their visits to five of the villages. We spent one week at Jellasore. At Easter several of us went to Bethasia to the home of Bindu Behera, the clerk of this school. One-day trips have been made to Kusudhia, Kundapore, and Mitrapore. I am still interested in the work among women and children of the villages and in their schools.

Yes, this has been a busy year. I wonder how many of the girls and teachers here are nearer to God now and have a clearer understanding of the teachings of Christ. Many times these two verses have come to my mind - "They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength." "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." My greetings for the new year are a wish for confident peace and sustained courage that you may go forward in the work God has for you. Pray for us that we might have physical endurance, increasing wisdom, loving understanding, and spiritual insight.

1945 Annual Report

WOMEN'S WORK, BHIMPORE

TIDINGS

Naomi K. Knapp

The orphans have been the center of the work during the past year. When school started in January Miss Grace Hill and the primary teachers found it difficult to place them in the proper classes. Many of them were children who had been in school only the past few months. Since several were ten or twelve years old, we wanted to push them on as rapidly as possible. Two extra teachers were added to the staff and the chapel and library room were used as class rooms. Still everything was filled. During vacation classes were held for some of the older children who needed help. And once more, classes had to be rearranged, for several were able to go into the next class. The school had an enrollment of 233, 121 of whom came from Christian families. In the middle school classes only five of the fifty-five were not from Christian families and one of the five wants to be baptized. Eight girls were baptized during the year.

Miss Hill left in July. We hated to have her go, but she was long past time for her furlough and needed rest. The boat which took her brought Miss Hazel E. Smith, a newcomer to our Mission. We are very happy to have her. Although most of her time had to be given to language study, she has taught some of the English classes and trained the children for Prize Giving, which was held the last of December. After Miss Hill left, Miss Nolini Kisku, who passed her B.A. last year, carried on the school very well with the aid of the other teachers, all of them former Bhimpoore school girls.

The orphan boys are still in temporary quarters but under the supervision of Rev. Long, a building is nearly ready for them. As other buildings are finished more children will be sent to us by the Government. The girls are in the building finished last year. It is a pleasure to watch them as they go about their work, watering the garden, washing clothes and dishes, sweeping the house and yard, or preparing the vegetables for the day's meals. They have their play period, ball being the favorite game. In mid-afternoon they come for milk, which comes from the Red Cross when we are unable to get enough milk locally. A dressmaking establishment goes on on our veranda, three or more women sewing every day making new clothes or patching old ones for the children. Even so the children often embarrass us by appearing in rags.

One remark heard from many visitors who come to see the children is, "How well they look! They don't look like famine children." Much of this is due to the care of the nurse, Mrs. Prohaboti Tudu. She watches for the first appearance of illness and is caring for the patient before the germ can get a real start. Besides the orphans sent us by Government and those cared for by funds from the Bengal Christian Council, two boys were brought by the American soldiers. These are boys they found needing help and for whom they cared as long as they were here. When they had to move on, they brought them here and left money for them.

While Miss Daniels continued on furlough, some one had to care for some of the work in Midnapore. This meant frequent trips there. Mrs. Biswas, the principal of the Girls' High School, not only took full responsibility for the school but helped in the community. During the year one of the Bible women left to take another position, so Mrs. G. Misra has been working alone. Nearly every trip some one asked about Miss Daniels and how soon she would be returning. We are very happy that she has arrived and is hard at work again.

The Bhimpore Bible women spent most of the year in the vicinity of Bhimpore. During February and March two of them were in the villages among the Santal churches. They came back with glowing reports. In one church where there are many who cannot read, classes were being held at night so the older people could learn to read their Bibles. During November Miss Molina Marndi was out in the Home Mission area with Miss Brueckmann and Miss Satyaboti Behera. The Women's Society has held meetings weekly but the attendance has been small. Gifts were sent as usual to the Home Mission Board and for the support of the worker in Dompara.

The orphanage nurse has worked with the other nurse in the village and the surrounding area. Some cases were sent to the English Methodist Hospital in Sarenga, but most of them were cared for here. During the year they have given more than 18,000 treatments to more than 500 people. People come from eight or ten miles away often going past a Government dispensary where they would get more expert treatment, but they prefer the sympathetic interest the nurses here give them. The American Friends Service Committee has helped much with their gifts of multi-vitamins, dextrose, and medicines.

Through it all there has been office work, reports, accounts, and many letters and numberless interruptions from people who came for help or advice. All these have kept us from spending the time in the villages we wished to spend. The memory of a motto once seen in some office has been a help - "Interruptions are God's opportunities." I am hoping God will use some of the interruptions for the advancement of His cause.

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Lillian M. Brueckmann
Balasore, Orissa

Bal. 98

My year's work in the district began and ended in the little village of Chordia, far off the beaten track. Early in January my co-worker, Satyaboti Behera, and I went to Chordia, a trip which involved travel by train, bus, and a ten-mile hike. After about one week in the village several of the preachers joined us there. The church has been without a regular pastor for two years. The evangelist living in a village five or six miles away makes frequent visits to Chordia. Since the trained school teacher had the previous year gone to Cuttack to complete his Bible training, a young married woman who had passed grade school was attempting to carry on the village primary school. We spent considerable time trying to help her to learn how to teach. Afternoons we had meetings with the Christian women, teaching them Bible stories, memory verses and hymns as outlined in the Christian Knowledge Course. Three weeks in such a village passes all too quickly. One longs to remain the year around and help these friends who, in the language of Paul, are "babes in Christ."

We arrived again in the village of Chordia on December 21st, a few days before Christmas activities. This time we found a group of children from Christian homes who were especially eager to learn and to take part in every service. On Sunday morning we taught each one a Bible verse pertaining to the Christmas story and a Christmas hymn. Christmas morning we held a worship service for the children in the little mud church. The fathers attended and enjoyed the service as much as the boys and girls. Satyaboti was able to weave the Bible verses which the children had memorized into a well-rounded account of the birth of Christ. At the close Satyaboti told the story of "The Shepherd Who Didn't Go." The boys and girls were thrilled to think they had a part in a real program and immediately asked if they were to repeat their Bible verses and Christmas song at the church program that evening. When suggested to Chintamani Pastor, he was pleased. A large crowd gathered in an open space outside the church. The men had swept the bare ground clean and placed a few green branches and other decorations about to add to the festive spirit. The Christian men, women and children were seated upon mats in the foreground and the non-Christians crowded about. One real attraction was the victrola which I had brought from Balasore. I could take only half a dozen records and half of these were English music. The people preferred the three Bengali records and I was sorry I had none in their Oriya language. While waiting for everyone to gather, I put on a record. As I sat there listening to Paul Robeson singing "Ol' Man River," I was amused at the thought of an American Negro singing this song in English to a crowd of Indian villagers as an opening number to a Christmas program. I was the only one present who could follow the meaning of the song. At the close of the program we distributed a boxful of gifts to the Christian community. There was a large bar of P and G soap (bought from the American Military) for each family. There were sari cloths for the widows, and gifts of clothing from the White Cross supplies for the children. The day before Christmas several of us had attempted to make molasses and coconut candy to be distributed at the Christmas program, but it failed to harden. Perhaps too many cooks who had a hand in the process. At the close of the

program it was dished out by spoonfuls and what a licking of sticky fingers followed! But it did taste good.

Each evening we visited one of the Christian homes for a brief worship service. Every morning the sick folk came to my tent. One elderly man with a badly infected finger came every day for treatment. When we left the village he came with us as far as Chandballi. There I went with him to the Government hospital to help dispel his fears of the doctor. I have never before cared for so many infected ears, but plenty of cotton swabs and a generous sprinkling of sulphanilamide seemed to accomplish what was needed.

Between these two visits to Chordia some time was spent in visiting 12 of our churches and working among non-Christian people. I was especially pleased with the fine work being done by Parul Tudu, a young Santal woman who began her work as a Bible woman in November 1944. She is working in an area where within the past three years a large number of Santal and Kora people have become Christians. Many of these people are illiterate and require constant teaching and guidance. Parul has been a great help to the pastor and has walked many miles from village to village to bring the gospel teaching to these people.

In Kundupore and Ujurda we had the greatest response among our Christian women. In these villages we met each afternoon to study the Christian Knowledge Course. The women were eager to learn and tell the prescribed Bible stories, memorize the scripture portions and hymns. During the past year 23 seals were earned toward the completion of this certificate course.

The Women's Conference appointed Mrs. Tarini Khan of Balasore and Miss Molina Marandy of Bhimpore to visit the Dampara Home Mission area and to report to the Conference especially upon the work of the Bible woman working there who is supported entirely by the love offering of the women. When asked to visit the field with these women I was very happy to do so. This was my first visit. After our visit to Dampara, Satyaboti, Molina and I spent some time in Mosaboni, the mining town of the India Copper Corporation. The women of the Grace Union Church in Mosaboni who invited us had never been organized for regular meetings. We found an interested group of about 20 women. The copper mines have attracted people from all parts of India. In the meetings as many as five different languages were used.

During the year there have been meetings of various kinds in which to participate. The yearly meeting held in Salgodia, February 21-25, brought together delegates from all the churches of our mission field. We felt the Holy Spirit's presence in a very real way. In March I attended the Half-Yearly meeting of the Balasore district churches which was held in Gangtaboni. The women of the eight churches in the Hatigarh-Salgodia area met in Jaleswar the last week in January. In May our Annual Women's Conference for the women of all our churches was held in Hatigarh with a larger attendance than we have had in several years. The Young People's Institute for the Balasore District was held in Balasore during October. In spite of a down-pour of rain every day of the five-day conference the attendance and interest were good. In all of these meetings the joy of Christian

fellowship inspires one to better Christian living and greater effort toward the building of the Kingdom of God.

Everywhere we find a great need for more consecrated trained leadership. During the past year we have made some progress toward the development of such leadership. Miss Bindu Das, who had taught in our Balasore Girls School for more than five years, decided last July to return to her own village. During the past six months, under her teaching, the Kundupore school has shown a marked improvement. The Sunday school has been enlarged to three classes instead of one. Bindu is following up our efforts to teach the Christian Knowledge Course to the women and she is helping several learn to read. In July Miss Bidhu Mukhi Dolai resigned her position as teacher in our Balasore Girls School in order to enter the Leonard Theological College in Jubbulpore to prepare for full-time Christian service in Balasore District, regardless of the fact that Bible women's work does not command as high a salary as the teaching profession. The young wife of one of our pastors who is now studying in the Cuttack Bible School is continuing her education in our girls' school. During the coming year I hope to give her such intensive Bible study and practical experience among village women as will be helpful to her when she joins her husband in the pastoral work of some village church.

A blessing shared brings double joy. And so this year Naomi Knapp and I had the joy of sharing our vacation in Darjeeling with four of our Bible women. Those majestic Himalaya mountains gave all of us new inspiration for the task ahead of us.

Lillian Brueckman